



United States
**Census
2010**

every person counts **mail it in!**

ChamberLink

Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County

ChamberLink Sponsored by



May 4, 2010

In this edition



Business
Intelligence
Report
May, 2010 »

- **Vector Aerospace Expands Operation to Huntsville**
- **Huntsville Named Best Place to Live in the U.S.**
- **Huntsville Earns Front Page Coverage in USA Today**
- **Cummings Aerospace Grows in CRP**
- **Best Places to Work and Best Employees in Huntsville/Madison County Named**
- **TRC Volunteers Sailing Toward 2010 Goal**
- **Experience China!**
- **UAHuntsville named a Best Value College Education by USA Today**
- **Huntsville's Nexus Energy Center Leads Regional Effort to Promote Energy Efficiency in the North Alabama after \$20 million Grant Win**
- **Mayor Battle to Hold Kick-Off Event for Bike Safety Week**

United States
**Census
2010**

every person counts **mail it in!**

The Madison County response rate for the 2010 Census currently stands at

Announcements

Vector Aerospace Expands Operation to Huntsville

Vector Aerospace, a leading provider of maintenance, repair and overhaul service for helicopters, recently expanded its operation into Huntsville to take advantage of being closer to the U.S. Army's aviation headquarters.

Company officials said they expect the Huntsville workforce to grow considerably to take advantage of fixed and rotary wing aircraft work being performed for the Army.

"This expansion represents one of the best-kept secrets about North Alabama – our economy is still growing thanks to the 1995 Base Realignment and Closure decision that combined the Army aviation and missile commands in Huntsville," said Chamber Board Chair Don Nalley, emcee of the announcement ceremony.

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle said the opening of Vector, which is performing maintenance work for the Army at its Andalusia hangar, is a great example that Alabama has become a corridor of excellence for U.S. Army aviation programs.

"This event showcases Alabama, from Huntsville through Andalusia and Anniston and down to Ft. Rucker, as having this aviation corridor of excellence," Battle said.

Seth Hammett, speaker of the house who represents the district in Andalusia, said Vector has grown from just a handful of employees at the Andalusia facility to more than 100 very quickly.

"I know first-hand this is a great company. We couldn't be more pleased with their growth in Andalusia and I think you can expect them to grow here as well. We all know that if you want to be in this business, you need to be in Huntsville. There is just so much going on here and with what they are doing in Andalusia and what they want to do here – this is great for Alabama," Hammett said.

John MacDougal, senior vice president, sales & marketing for Vector, said it is always a good idea to be as close to the customer as possible.



Chamber Board Chair Don Nalley, left, presents Vector Aerospace Senior Vice President John MacDougal a plaque to commemorate the company's expansion into Huntsville. (Click photo to enlarge)

74%. THANK YOU to all who have responded. If you or your company employees have not yet mailed in your form, Census workers will begin going door to door to contact those households who have not responded. It is not too late to mail in the form. If you did not receive or misplaced your form, you may obtain a new one by calling: 1-866-872-6868. Please help us spread the word and bring back our share of federal funding to the community!



Member News

- **AEGIS Technologies**
AEGIS Technologies Awarded AFMSTT Contract »
- **Lyons HR**
Lyons HR Celebrates 15th Anniversary »
- **Allegra**
Buy One Get One Free! »
- **U.S. Space and Rocket Center**
Summer at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center »
- **Huntsville Museum of Art**
Encounters: Kathy Chan »
- **Savvy Gift**
Your Mom wants a Savvy Gift for Mother's Day »
- **Huntsville Hospital**
Huntsville Hospital Recognized in Supply Chain Excellence Awards »
- **Huntsville Adventure Boot Camp**
The Tennessee Valley's "Best" Get Buff Before the Sun Comes Up Huntsville, AL »
- **Inergi Design**
Inergi Design Engineer Honored by SWE »
- **DECISIVE ANALYTICS Corporation**
Executive Becomes Chairman of the NATO Industrial Advisory Group »
- **Oakwood Universit**
OU President Reportedly First African American to Complete North and South Pole Marathons »

"Vector has a long history of providing best-in-class maintenance, repair and overhaul support to defense operators including the U.S. Army and Navy, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Special Operations, the Canadian Department of Defense, the United Kingdom Ministry of Defense, Foreign Military Sales (FMS) operators and various international militaries," he said. "To ensure our ongoing ability to support to U.S. Army helicopter operators, we have established this location to further enhance our ability to be both responsive to increasing demands, and proactive to address new opportunities to support the Army's unique helicopter maintenance, repair and overhaul requirements."

Huntsville Named Best Place to Live in the U.S.

Huntsville was named the best place to live in the U.S. by RelocateAmerica.com, an online resource that offers relocating consumers information about the local housing market, the culture of each community, activities and local businesses.



The ranking comes as part of RelocateAmerica's "America's Top 100 Places to Live" list that was recently released. "America's Top 100 Places to Live" recognizes communities nominated by their residents as a "great place to live", based on details about the neighborhoods, beauty of the area, school performance, recreational activities and economic growth. In addition to the nomination, a group of researchers analyzed employment and economic growth potential, crime rate and quality of life of the more than 8,000 communities nominated.

"I'd like to thank Relocate America for this terrific recognition. It's often said of Huntsville that we are one of America's best kept secrets. With this latest No. 1 ranking, that secret is getting more difficult to keep. This is yet another example by a nationally recognized entity that our community is strong, and even in difficult times, that our future remains bright.

Ours is a community with a deep and diverse workforce, an incredible quality of life and one of the stronger job markets in the nation. But above all of that, it's our sense of community that truly separates us from the rest of the pack," says Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle.

Below are the top 10 places to relocate this year, according RelocateAmerica.com:

1. Huntsville, Ala.
2. Washington, D.C.
3. Austin, Texas
4. San Diego
5. San Antonio, Texas
6. Tulsa, Okla.
7. Charlotte, N.C.
8. Raleigh, N.C.
9. Boulder, Colo.
10. Minneapolis

[Click here to read the full story.](#) »

Huntsville Earns Front Page Coverage in USA Today

Huntsville was prominently featured in a *USA Today* article on the nation's recovery this week. The article focused on Huntsville's falling unemployment rate, which is among the lowest in Alabama, and the growth as a result of Base Realignment and Closure decisions to relocate thousands of jobs to Redstone Arsenal.

- Parkway Place
Grand Opening: Children's Play Area »
- Cyn Shea's
News from Cyn Shea's »
- All Seasons One Hour Heating & Air Conditioning
NBC'S "The Celebrity Apprentice" Features Three Home Service Brands for The First Time Ever »

For a complete listing of Chamber Member News, Continue »

Please email your announcements to jsoutherland@hsvchamber.org

To read the story from USA Today, click here. »



Cummings Aerospace Grows in CRP

Cummings Aerospace recently opened its new office in Cummings Research Park with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The company has grown from one employee to nine in the few months that it has been in operation.

Cummings specializes in systems engineering, software engineering, test engineering and program management for the Department of Defense. In addition to its growth in Huntsville, the company has recently opened an office in Orlando.

Sheila Cummings, the founder and CEO of Cummings Aerospace, said that recent contract wins and the hiring of key employees are reasons why the company has grown. She said that Cummings plans to continue growing its presence in Huntsville.

"Since our first month of business, it has been a whirlwind. We have been busy cultivating business partnerships with small and large businesses. We look forward to a bright future and being a part of the growth of Huntsville," said Cummings.

Don Nalley, Chair of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County Board of Directors, said that companies such as Cummings are the reasons why the community earns accolades from some of the most respected finance publications in the U.S. and the world.

"Cummings' expansion and the need for this new office space in Research Park is truly representative of the kind of economic growth that has earned this community numerous accolades such as *Forbes*, which named us No. 8 in Best Places for Business and Careers," Nalley said.



Sheila Cummings, founder and CEO of Cummings Aerospace, cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of Cummings Aerospace's new office in CRP. (Click photo to enlarge)

Best Places to Work and Best Employees in Huntsville/Madison County Named

Fifteen companies in Huntsville/Madison County were selected as the "Best Places to Work" – while six employees were named the Best Employees in Huntsville/Madison County at the third annual Best Places to Work awards luncheon presented by First Commercial Bank at the Von Braun Center. The event was co-hosted by the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County and the North Alabama Society for Human Resource Management.



Madison County commission Chairman Mike Gillespie recognized all of the nominated companies at the Best Places to Work awards

More than 100 organizations were nominated for the award and more than 70 qualified for the honor. Amy George, former news anchor and founder of the Melissa George Neonatal Memorial Fund, emceed the event.

luncheon which had more than 700 people in attendance. The community's best places to work and the best employees who work for them were honored. (Click photo to enlarge)

Winners were based solely on a survey completed by employees and were selected in three categories: organizations with between 25 and 74 local employees; organizations with between 75 and 249 local employees; and employers with 250 local employees or more.

Winners in each of the categories for Best Places to Work were:

- 25-74 workers**
 - Edward Jones
 - QTEC, Inc.
 - QuantiTech, Inc.
 - Servis1st Bank
 - Venturi, Inc.
- 75-249 workers**
 - Avion Solutions, Inc.*
 - HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology
 - Intuitive Research and Technology Corporation*^
 - Modern Technology Solutions, Inc.*
 - Tec-Masters, Inc.*
- 250 or more workers**
 - Camber Corporation*^
 - ITT-CAS Corporation*
 - Dynetics, Inc.*
 - ERC, Inc.
 - URS*

* Two time Best Places to Work winner
 *^ Three time Best Places to Work winner

[Continue »](#)

TRC Volunteers Sailing Toward 2010 Goal

TRC volunteers recently made their first Port of Call for the more than 85 volunteers participating in the sixth annual Total Resource Campaign (TRC). Frank Caprio, 2010 TRC Chair told the crowd that the funds raised during this campaign go towards increasing the economic development opportunities for all businesses located in the Huntsville/Madison County community. Caprio gave special recognition to Mike Johnston, a sailor on the Bryant Bank team, for his outstanding efforts. To date, volunteers have raised more than \$840,000 and are sailing toward a goal of \$1.4 million. Weekly Port of Call stops will be held to recognize sailors and learn more about the countries with companies located in Huntsville/Madison County community and will culminate on June 24 when the campaign ends. For more information about sponsorship opportunities through the TRC, contact Loren Traylor at Ltraylor@hsvchamber.org.



TRC Volunteers (L to R) Linda Cinador, Lisa Abbott, Michelle Omenski and Mandy Kerce, are having fun helping the Chamber and the community remain competitive for growing local industry. (Click photo to enlarge)

Experience China!

The Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County and the North

Alabama International Trade Association along with the presenting sponsor, Northrop Grumman are partnering to provide a unique experience to members of both organizations. A group of Tennessee Valley business executives will leave for a seven night tour of Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou and Hangzhou on March 26, 2011 and return on April 3, 2011. The cost to experience this once in a life-time adventure begins at a low price of \$2,500. This price includes roundtrip airfare from Los Angeles, and five-star hotel accommodations, meals, tour tickets, English speaking guide, a business conference and all taxes while in China. Participants will be required to provide their own transportation to Los Angeles. For those interested in getting more information, please plan to attend an informational meeting on May 19 at the Chamber at 5:30 p.m. or email Harrison Diamond at hdiamond@hsvchamber.org.



[Download flyer »](#)

UAHuntsville named a Best Value College Education by USA Today

The University of Alabama in Huntsville is one of the best values for a college education in the nation, according to a published report in *USA Today*.

The newspaper teamed with *The Princeton Review* to name the 50 best education values among public universities in America. UAHuntsville was the only public university in Alabama to make the list.

"This report is a validation of how our campus provides a high-quality education for students at a reasonable cost," said UAHuntsville President David Williams. "The strength of our faculty and scholarly research in all of our colleges combined with small class sizes and generous financial aid allows us to provide the best college education value to our students."

The schools were selected based on surveys of administrators and students at more than 650 public and private college and university campuses across the country.

The overall selection criteria included more than 30 factors in three areas: academics, costs and financial aid. Academic ratings were based on student surveys about such issues as professors' accessibility and class sizes, as well as institutional reports about student-faculty ratios and percent of classes taught by teaching assistants.

Huntsville's Nexus Energy Center Leads Regional Effort to Promote Energy Efficiency in the North Alabama after \$20 million Grant Win

Nexus Energy Center was recently awarded a \$20 million Department of Energy (DoE) grant in conjunction with Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) to promote energy related projects for north Alabama.

Nexus Energy Center is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that has created a consortium of partners dedicated to bringing energy solutions to the north Alabama community. Nexus has been able to grow its business and research supporters in less than a year to more than 40 companies, universities, non-profits and municipalities from the Huntsville and North Alabama area.

"We heard the news of the DOE award on the eve of Earth Day ironically while attending an Oak Ridge Symposium on Energy Solutions," said Nexus director Ruchi Singhal. "We feel this is a great victory for Huntsville and the entire Southeast, who will soon realize the monetary benefits of energy efficiency in the workplace and at home. In addition, we feel strongly that Huntsville will see

economic development and green job creation through these energy efficiency efforts."

Its regional partner, SEEA, will partner with Nexus to increase the energy efficiency of small and large residential, commercial and public buildings. Another key aspect of the program, which will use a combined formula allocation and a pay-for-performance strategy to fund specific projects, will be the availability of affordable, accessible financing programs.

"This large infusion of funding from DOE into the Southeast provides an unprecedented opportunity to promote energy efficiency and innovation while also creating jobs in this tough economy," said SEEA Executive Director Ben Taube. "SEEA is looking forward to working with our various community partners across the region as we go forward and transform the market."

.....

Mayor Battle to Hold Kick-Off Event for Bike Safety Week

Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle and other area VIPs will kick-off "Bicycle Safety Awareness Month in Huntsville" with the 2nd Annual Mayor's Bicycle Ride.

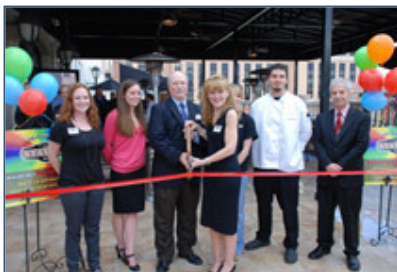
This is the most accessible ride of the year, an easy 4-mile loop around Downtown Huntsville (with a bailout option at 2 miles).

The event begins at Fountain Circle & Williams Avenue near Huntsville Bicentennial Park May 15 at 10:00am. Helmets are required.

Ribbon Cuttings (Click photo to enlarge)



Sunbelt Business Brokers Ribbon Cutting
3322 Memorial Parkway S Ste 532,
Huntsville, AL 35801
April 28



The Station Ribbon Cutting
340 The Bridge Street Town Centre, Suite
204, Huntsville, AL 35806
April 27



Bradley Hamner State Farm Insurance Agent Ribbon Cutting
11310 Memorial Pkwy, Huntsville, AL
35803
April 23



Panoply Ribbon Cutting
Big Spring Park at the Japanese Bridge
April 22

Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies are a great way to introduce your business! Take advantage of this free service provided by the Chamber of Commerce for its members.

Visit the photo gallery of the recent ribbon cutting events. »
Upcoming Ribbon Cutting events »



- TO UNSUBSCRIBE: If you no longer wish to receive email from the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, please click [here](#).